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only an oral test in the shape of an interview conducted by the Public Services Commission with the assistance of one of the Judges of the High Court. There is no written test at present and there is no proposal at present to introduce such a test.''

Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar :—'' Since the *viva voce* test that is now being held may mean more stress upon personality and other extraneous considerations, may I suggest that to promote efficiency and to debar extraneous considerations getting in, the written test may be held as in the case of All-India Services like the I.P.S., I.A.S. and I.F.S.? ''

The Hon. Sri C. Subramaniam :—'' It is only the members of the Bar who compete for these posts. I do not think that any further written test will be welcomed by them.''

Sri V. Gopala Gounder :—'' Does this test apply to the recruitment of Sub-Magistrates? ''

The Hon. Sri C. Subramaniam :—'' I am answering the question relating to Munsifs and Subdivisional Magistrates.''

Bridge for '' Potten Kadavu Thodu ''

* 741 *Q.*—Sri K. P. Gopalan : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government have decided to construct a bridge for '' Potten Kadavu Thodu '' in Koram amsam, Payyanur firka, North Malabar; and

(*b*) if so, when the construction work is likely to begin?

The Hon. Sri S. S. Ramasamy Padayachi :—'' (*a*) No, Sir.

'' (*b*) The question does not arise.''

Sri K. P. Gopalan :—'' Are the Government aware that people are put to so much difficulties for want of a bridge there. Will the Government be pleased to enquire into the matter and see that a bridge is constructed there? ''

The Hon. Sri S. S. Ramasamy Padayachi :—'' Yes, Sir, the suggestion will be forwarded to the district board for examination.''

Grant from the Handloom Cess Fund for Malabar

* 742 *Q.*—Sri K. P. Gopalan : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state what are the present proposals before the Government to utilize the Handloom Cess Fund in the Malabar district for the benefit of handloom weavers?

The Hon. Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam :—'' Existing Weavers' Co-operative Societies and new societies formed in the Malabar district are eligible for all forms of assistance

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from the cess fund in the fields of production and marketing as are given to similar societies in other districts. A large number of weavers in Malabar district are working in privately owned handloom factories. They cannot form themselves into co-operative societies. For the relief of weavers employed in factories, this Government have since sanctioned with the approval of the Government of India, schemes for the conversion of two such factories at Chovva and Thottada into Industrial Co-operatives, as an experimental measure, with financial assistance from the Cess Fund towards the share capital of the weavers, the working capital and the purchase of the equipment and buildings of the factories, etc."

Sri K. P. GOPALAN :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister, out of this Cess Fund, how much amount has been spent already by the Government in the Malabar district. Also, in view of the peculiar conditions in Malabar, whether this Government have made any new proposals to the Central Government regarding the utilization of the cess fund there?"

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I have already answered that question, regarding new proposals. In view of the peculiar conditions in Malabar, two factories are to be converted into Industrial Co-operatives and for that purpose an interest-free of Rs. 1,12,302-8-0 has been sanctioned. Regarding other items of expenditure, I do not have figures with me now."

Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Will the Hon. Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state at what stage the proposal to start a handloom co-operative factory at Kumbil in the Chirakkal taluk stands? Already some collections have been made from the weavers and the initial work connected with the starting of that factory has been finished?"

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I would like to have notice, Sir."

Sri T. ANANTA PAI :—" Is there a proposal before the Government for starting a Co-operative Spinning Mill in Malabar or South Kanara? If not, will the Government sympathetically consider the proposal if it is put forward?"

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" There is no such proposal, Sir. If any proposal is put forward, the Government will examine it before they express sympathy for it."

Sri V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Have the Government received any representation regarding proposals for a co-operative society formed by handloom factory owners?"

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I have no information with me now."